

### **Amendments to the Claims**

#### **1-11. (Cancelled)**

**12. (New)** A method for preventing the onset of asthma in an infant or child in need thereof, which comprises administering to the infant or child a therapeutically effective amount of cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**13. (New)** A method for preventing the onset of asthma in an infant or child in need thereof, which comprises administering to the infant or child prophylactically prior to the onset of asthma a therapeutically effective amount of cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**14. (New)** A method for preventing the sensitisation of an infant or child at risk of developing an asthma disease, which comprises administering to the infant or child a therapeutically effective amount of cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**15. (New)** The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, wherein the salt is cetirizine dihydrochloride.

**16. (New)** The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, wherein the infant or child is 1 to 4 years of age.

**17. (New)** The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, which comprises administering a daily dosage from about 0.0005 mg to about 2 mg of said cetirizine, said individual optical isomer thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, per kg of body weight of the infant or child.

**18. (New)** The method according to claim 17, which comprises administering a daily dosage of about 0.05 mg to about 1 mg per kg of body weight of the infant or child.

**19. (New)** The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, which comprises administering said cetirizine, said individual optical isomer thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, from 1 to 3 times a day.

**20. (New)** The method according to any one of claims 12, 13 or 14, wherein said cetirizine, said individual optical isomer thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered orally.

**21. (New)** A method of making a pharmaceutical composition for preventing the onset of asthma in a patient, which comprises mixing cetirizine, an individual optical isomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.